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18. OBSERVATION ON THE REPRODUCTION OF
POLYPEDATES LEUCOMYSTAX (GRAVENHORST 1829)
 (ANURA : RHACOPHORIDAE)

On June 6, 1998, at 1945 hrs, we spotted a pair of *Polypedates leucomystax* in amplexus inside a newly built tank (180 cm x 240 cm x 180 cm) with 150 cm deep rainwater. Five other males were also observed calling around the same tank. At 1951 hrs the female (SVL 60 mm) discharged a colourless gel and started to work her hindlimbs slowly in a sideways fanning motion from her ankles, touching the cloaca. At the same time the male (SVL 48 mm) too followed the female in moving its hindlimbs from the ankles, between the cloaca and ankles of the female. A white frothy mass was formed which adhered to the wall of the tank. After a few minutes, the female started discharging a few ova at a time into the foam at intervals of 10-20 seconds, the intervals increased to maximum one minute. Between intervals both male and female stopped moving their hindlimbs. Every time the female moved the hindlimbs, the male did the same. Finally, the foam reached a size of c. 6 x 7.5 cm.

As the female stopped laying eggs at 2030 hrs, the male withdrew its feet from the foam and slowly dismounted from the female. During the foam-nest construction the female kept her eyes closed only once at 2029 hrs and stopped moving her feet. She moved her hindlimbs only once after the male dismounted. At 2030 hrs, she sat 2 cm above the foam, withdrawing her feet, stood stationary for 5 minutes in the same

position and jumped into the water at 2035 hrs, swimming to the far side of the tank. In the meanwhile, the foam covering became reddish-brown, the centre remaining white.

Just before ovulation, the pair was observed taking a dip in the water immersing up to two-thirds of their bodies. Then they climbed about 6 cm above the level of the water. The female held firmly on to the wall, taking the support of a dried remnant of old foam. The male held the female firmly under her shoulder. During ovulation, the femur of the female was at right angles to her body. Distinct pulsation was observed in her abdomen while discharging ova.

The event described was observed under a charge light. Although the observation was very close, the nearest was 25 cm, the pair was apparently not disturbed. In fact, the male jumped to the light source after dismounting.

The same tank had been used by 10 pairs of *Polypedates leucomystax*, including the observed pair, since April 11, 1998, within a period of 56 days.

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MD. FIROZ AHMED
 BIBHUTI PRASAD LAHKAR
Department of Zoology,
Gauhati University,
Guwahati 781 014,
Assam, India.